larity will effect anywhere, it has wrought it at the expense of his vitality. Further, instead of having set him in the way of

permanent good behavior, the "cure" has encouraged him to think he can do as he pleases and can always return to find the health of youth again. What with its

"pain killers" that strangle the kindly if cruel warnings against excess, and its "cures" that lull to sleep the prudence be-

got of melancholy experiences with bad health, the medical profession seems to be in a fair way to deserve the worst its critics within as well as without its ranks

### MUCH ROOM FOR FRAUD

BUSINESS METHODS IN POSTOFFICE DEPARTMENT ANTIQUATED.

Attention of Congress Often Called to It, but No Heed Given-New Features Added.

Washington Post. Public scandal, graver than anything probable in the pending Postoffice Department investigations, has long been invited by the system of transacting business there. The department many years ago had far outstripped the facilities for assuring honest dealings, and at the present day the postal affairs of the country, rivaling in magnitude any commercial enterprise between the two oceans, are conducted along lines no good business man would tolerate. If all that is now charged and suspected in regard to mal-administration should prove true, it would only be a pin scratch on the surface, compared with deep abysses of possible disaster, inherent in the system of doing a private financial and transportation business on the government account, even as it is now being done, without regard to proposed extensions.

The total money transactions of the postal service, including the money order system, for the fiscal year will reach \$1,000,000,000. The accounts are all kept in the offices of the auditor of the Postoffice Department, and from there time and time again alarms have been sounded regarding defective

But that is only one feature of the enormous postal business of the country, furnishing, under the present lax arrange-ments and absence of checks upon em-ployes, thousands of loopholes for improper expenditures. Almost every year Congress has under consideration some scheme for the extension of the postal system. During 1899 a bill was pending which appropriated \$50,000,000, if necessary, to buy or build a postal telegraph, but did not even mention, much less provide for, any plan or force for keeping or auditing its accounts.

In season and out of season for several tious and thorough official, has been calling attention to "notoriously defective methods" in branches of the postal service. He has emphasized these matters in his annual reports, but official reports rarely command much scrutiny from Congress or from others in authority. He has also written of them in magazine and newspaper articles. As long ago as 1900 Mr. Castle was telling Congress about the improper auditing of claims for railway mail "This is due," said he, "to the insufficient data furnished this office by the Postoffice Department, it being a settled principle that in auditing an account we are entitled to all the information in the possession of the department when the account was approved. The expenditures under this head, aggregating more than \$32,000,000 annually, would seem to require special attention and the more rigid accuracy in ascertaining the amounts due be fore final payment.

CONDEMNED BY CONTROLLER. "The glaring defects in our system have controller of the treasury in a pubnecessary to correct this flagrant omission, and if we did receive them, we could not make the audit with our present force. As sessions of Congress, at least twenty additional clerks are needed that this auditing may be assumed. The suggestion was ignored, and the responsibility for failing to and pelts by \$3,000,000. Various other prod-

with the lawmaking power."
Strong official protests have been made against engrafting new features upon the postal system, already grown to enormous unless facilities were at the same time provided for keeping check upon all transactions. Nearly all of the engrafted features, such as registry, free delivery, money order, merchandise post, and other branches, have been conducted at a loss, which has been in part compensated for by the profits in other branches, chiefly the transporting and delivering of first-class mail matter. Mr. Castle has based his protests against these large increases chiefly on "the vitally important fact that the accounting system now in operation does not

enable us to properly care for the various branches already in vigorous operation." The serious defects in keeping account of the money order transactions of the country were dwelt upon by Mr. Castle in his annual report for 1901 in about as vigorous language as one could employ. "At least \$75,000,000 money order funds," said he, "are, by the present accounting system, at all times nominally in the hands of postmasters unaccounted for. The postmaster who sells money orders transmits to this office his report of such sales weekly, semi-monthly, or monthly, as the case may be. These reports are necessarily held here for a period averaging five months before the money orders which constitute vouchers verifying the amount of the postmasters' receipts can be assembled from all parts of the world, assorted by States, towns and numbers, and then checked against the re-port. Not until all this time has elapsed and all this work has been done can we

ascertain whether the postmaster has accounted for all his receipts.

"Meanwhile, there is abundant opportunity to the dishonest for heavy embezzlements, which, in fact, are constantly occurring. No banking business could be carried on successfully in this loose man-ner. An additional safeguard would consist in requiring each postmaster to send a daily statement to this office, showing in brief his cash receipts from the sale of money orders during that day and his disposition of the same. These statements would here be posted and afterward verified as soon as possible by the regular report

WOULD RESTRICT DISHONESTY.

"While this would not be a perfect protection against loss, it would be a long step in that direction, since it would un- added value to the land. questionably have a restrictive influence on dishonest officials. It would enable this full reports, and it would be otherwise beneficial to the service. A large additional force would be required to properly receive, enter and verify these statements, but the government, having engaged in this business, owes to itself the adoption of every possible precaution.

Again last year Mr. Castle emphasized still another defect in the present system, the old-time plan of reviewing all the work having been abandoned. On this point he

"In the earlier history of this bureau the practice prevailed of reviewing substantialy all the work in order that the highest legree of accuracy might be attained in the settlement of postal accounts. As time advanced, while the postal service ramified into a multitude of new directions and vastly increased in the volume of its fiscal operations, this review was more and more stricted. Within recent years it was argely abandoned, and when the present auditor entered upon the discharge of his utles in 1897 a review existed only in the bookkeeping and pay divisions

"Here the magnitude of the interests involved, the enormous collection of revenue from the sale of postage stamps, etc., and the large payment for clerk hire, rent, light and fuel, free delivery service, railway mail service, payments to railway and other contractors for carrying the mails, with the liability to error involving large amounts or the payments to contractors who were in default, had seemed to require a reaudit of substantially all the settlements made in the pay division and all the settlements of paymasters' accounts in the bookkeeping division in which differences were found. In the other divisions a review was unknown. The necessity for it was immediately impressed upon the mind of the auditor, but the clerical force was so limited as to utterly preclude its early introduction. The business of the bureau was rapidly expanding, while the number of helpers increased very slowly and the efficiency of many elderly employes was stead-

ily deteriorating. The matter has been taken up at intervals, however, during the five years which have elapsed, and in one division after another schemes of review have been installed where most urgently needed. The process is finally completed and each division has been supplied with a system adapted to its needs.

The need for sweeping legislation which will authorize a complete renovation of the department beyond the power of any Cabiofficer to inaugurate without the help of Congress is apparent. There was legisLATEST PICTURE OF THE CZARINA



It was rumored lately that the Czarina of Russia was seriously ill, but the report was later officially denied.

hasty and so faulty at some points that several of the boasted improvements have already been abandoned.

BIG FARM PROFITS.

Nebraska Professor Says They Are Greater Than Those of Any Trust.

Lincoln (Neb.) Letter in New York Sun. Are the farmers of the West exacting too great a profit upon their investment? Ought they not be content with lower prices, and should not the action of the federal authorities be invoked, as it is against the steel, oil and sugar producers, to prevent foodstuffs producers from growing suddenly and enromously rich at the expense of the great common people? These questions are presented in a little

pamphlet prepared by Professor Davisson, of the social economy department of the State University. Not, it is true, in just those words, but the evident aim of the compilation Mr. Davisson has made is to show that not even the tobacco or the steel trust is reaping as big dividends from its investments as the farmers of the State of The census report shows that in 1900 there

were in Nebraska 121,525 farms, with an average value of \$4,753, and a total value of \$557,608,325. Mr. Davisson has secured reports from men in every county who have exceptional opportunities to find out the movements in the values of real estate, and these show an average increase of 25 per cent. over the 1900 estimate. Added to the census figures this gives a total value of

Figures gleaned from the reports of the secretary of the State Board of Agriculture show that up to 1900 the average value of the commodities produced on Nebraska farms was not far from \$140,000,000. Of this sum nearly \$75,000,000 was represented by the live stock shipped and slaughtered, while \$45,000,000 represented the average value of the grain crops.

Poultry was represented by \$3,000,000 more, butter by \$2,000,000, eggs by \$2,000,000, hides perform this necessary function still rests ucts of the farm, garden, orchard and dairy make up the remainder of the grand

> represented only the surplus of the farmer's products, that is, over and above what found necessary to maintain himself and family. From this should be deducted the cost of agricultural implements and other incidental expenses. This gives him something like 15 per cent, interest on his

In view of the fact that last year the value of farm products, exclusive of live stock put on the market, was \$150,000,000, his profit on the investment could not have been less than 25 per cent. Few industrial enterprises, even conceding that many of them are overcapitalized, can make such

a showing as this. The value of live stock on the ranges before the marketing in 1902 was \$180,000,000. Agricultural implements were worth \$31,-000,000. The amount of money on deposit in the national and State banks is estimated at not less than \$90,000,000. The great rise to wealth of the farmers

in a few decades reads almost like a fairy story. In the beginning of her argriculcould produce corn only. In the last few years Nebraska farmers have turned their attention to raising wheat and alfalfa as well as corn, and last year the State produced almost 46,000,000 bushels of winter wheat and 8,000,000 bushels of spring wheat. The corn crop last year was 279,000,000 bushels, that of oats 52,000,000, rye 7,000,000 and barley 2,000,000. There were 11,192 acres of sugar beets, averaging not less than ten

tons to the acre. The hay crop was tremendous. No accurate statistics can be obtained from the State as a whole, but in twenty-seven counties there were produced 32,000 tons of clo-74,000 tons of timothy, 869,000 tons of ld hav and 347,000 tons of alfalfa.

the future of the State. Ten years ago it could scarcely be said to exist in Nebraska. Last year there were over a hundred thousand acres planted, much of it mere preliminary work. In some parts of the State this crop annually produces more than the value of the land. It will be but a few years until a million acres are under

Where the farmer has the advantage of the industrial enterprises is that there is no impairment of the capital invested. Instead, the production of large crops means The raising of alfalfa, for instance, means

that every county will engage in the raising of live stock. The existence of live stock office to detect fraudulent variations be- on every farm means that the fertility of tween the daily statements and subsequent | the soil will be maintained, that the farmers instead of having to pay large sums for fertilizers will keep the soil capable of producing as abundantly as it does to-day.

Dreams of the Grass.

O to lie in long grasses! O to dream on the plain! Where the west wind sings, as it passes, A weird and unceasing refrain! Where the rank grass tosses and wallows, And the plain's rim dazzles the eye, Where hardly a silvercloud bosses The flashing steel shield of the sky!

To watch the gray gulls as they glitter Like snowflakes, and fall from on high To dip in the deeps of the prairie; Vhere the crow's foot tosses awry. Like the swirl o' swift waltzers in glee, To the harsh, shrill creak of the cricket,

And the song of the lark and the bee! -Hamlin Garland.



THE CIRCUS SEASON. Ringmaster-Where did you get that 'Dare Devil Chariot Driver?"

Manager-He used to drive an ambu-

sensible basis, but that legislation was so THE SWINDLER IN JOURNALISM.

Devious Career of Correspondent "Edgar G. Bellairs."

with the verity of the saying, "Truth is stranger than fiction," and one of the most | settles and the like are turned out to order.

Such characters are popularly supposed how they dim the most nimble fancies of the novelists. Here was a man the greater part of whose life merited a place in Inspector Byrnes's "Professional Criminals of America," and yet for years, during the war in Cuba, the troubles in China and the insurrection in the Philippines, he was it a position where he could almost at wil write history for the American people.

Sixteen months after this man finished a sentence in a Florida prison for forgery he managed to secure the berth of war correspondent for the Associated Press. He accompanied General Wood in Cuba; later he went with Chaffee to China, and for two years after his service there he correspondent for the Associated Press at Manila, sending out fully ninetenths of all the news which the newspapers in the United States were permitted to get from the Philippines. Thus, to use the words of the New York Evening Post, "such glimpses of the occurrences in the Philippines as the average American had during 'Bellairs's' stay in

Manila were through the eyes of this con-

fidence man, swindler, gambler, forger and It would be impossible to estimate how much of the news that came through this man's hand was honest, how much was colored to suit his own interests or those of persons who may not have been above using him. We do not go the length that at least two New York papers do in stating bluntly that he was General "press agent," that he was largely instrumental in the recall of General Brooks from Cuba, and that "he has made and unmade generals and colonial governors by his command over the avenues of com-

munication to the American press." But we can see how easily possible was before "Belliars"-his real name is Charles Ballentine-was ignominiously dismissed from the service of the Associated Press, to garble and color news from the Philippines and thus deceive and mislead the American people

While General Wood knew nothing of the part that Bellairs was playing, the correspondent certainly was doing all he could to place the general in a favorable light and to disparage those who might be in the way of his advancement. For Bellairs in his book recently published-and now withdrawn by the publishers-begins with an attack on Governor Taft and follows with a eulogy of General Wood as an ad-

Fortunately for the American people, this smooth schemer has been fully exposed. He not only deceived the Associated Press. but the publishers of his book, and we cannot say how much he had deceived all the people in this country. And we can only express the hope that never again will the people be dependent for their news on a man with a criminal record.

MISSING REMEDY.

It Nearly Made a Detroit Resident Commit Murder.

Detroit Free Press. "We have had a colored woman to come to the house to do the washing for several years past," said a resident of Hancock avenue as he came down in the car the other morning, "and it has happened once or a room with some family-and then I discovered it in a way to leave me weak in the knees. I woke up at midnight with a longing for a glass of beer, and, knowing that there were some cold bottles in the refrigerator, I crept out of bed and went down to the kitchen. I had no light, and the first thing I saw was a man looking into one of the kitchen windows. I watched him for a few seconds and then hustled upstairs after my gun. When I returned he was softly trying the door, and I made up my mind to teach him a lesson. I quietly turned the key and of a sudden threw open the door and found the prowler right at the muzzle of the revolver. He was a big fellow and black as the ace of spades, and I was pulling the trigger when he called out:

'Say, white man, is my ole woman here? "'Who is your old woman?' I asked. "'Why, she's dun washed fur yo' fur de last seben years. She didn't come home, and so I reckoned she stayed here.' " 'And what do you want of her?'

"'Deed, sah, but de baby's got a turn wid de colic, an' I wanted to ax her what she did wid de bottle of perrygoric. I can't find it nowhars 'bout de house.' "I called his old woman and she went home with him," concluded the citizen, "but even if baby's colic kept up I guess they got more sleep than I did. I had come within a hair's breadth of putting a bullet into him, and I didn't get over shaking for the next two hours. I tried to make him understand what a narrow escape he had. but his reply was: "'Yes, sah; jess so, sah, but, yo' see, couldn't dun find dat perrygoric."

"GET-HEALTHY-QUICK" RESORTS.

Americans Make Annual Pilgrimages to European Sanitariums.

Collier's Weekly. And now the steamers are bearing away hundreds of Americans to the "get-healthyquick" concerns of Europe. Some will drink vast quantities of water, others vast qauntities of milk; some will take the "perfect-rest" cures, others the "incessant-exercise" cures. And all will be vastly improved in appearance and will leave their respective "get-healthy-quick" concerns without a grudging thought about the money they have been relieved of by the hordes of bandits that run "cures." time is not yet, but neither is it far distant, when cynicism will get a hearing on this matter of "cures." In days of old a robber went forth to rob. Nowadays, a robber of the first class has his open habitat precisely like the honest citizen and remains in it and hangs out a sign and has great difficulty in attending to the throngs that pour in to beg him to relieve them of their goods. He is usually keep-ing either a "get-rich-quick" concern or a "get-healthy-quick" concern. At bottom the two industries are the same. They rest rock-founded upon the universal delusion that something can be got for nothing. A man who has obviously abused his health for forty-six weeks of the year does well to devote the remaining six weeks to intelligent repentance for his physical sins. But he is not "as good as new," again, and if the tured? "cure" has wrought any benefit beyond His what fresh air, sensible eating and regu- eating the supe.

ARTISTIC FORGERIES. The Manufacture and Sale of Spurious Productions. London Mail.

are saying of it.

Not merely paintings—as was pointed out by Mr. MacWhirter, R. A."—but almost every conceivable form of fine art, particularly the antique, has its countless mod-

London and Paris teem with men who have amassed thousands of pounds by palming off as genuine clever imitations of pictures, furniture, brasses, china and of the hundred and one things for the collection of which there happens to be a prevailing craze. The less reputable art dealers and many so-called experts will insure, however great the demand, that the supply shall be equal to it.

One of the leading London art dealers yesterday expressed himself thoroughly satisfied with the exposure of the frauds. He thinks that, far from being harmful to the trade, the exposure can only be beneficial to the reliable dealer, since in selling a work of art at a high figure he practically holds himself morally responsible for its authenticity. The bargain hunter will begin to see the dangers of buying from obscure sources, and will have to turn to the expert dealer if he wants to acquire objects that are beyond dispute.

Of recent years small antique shops have sprung up all over London and in many provincial towns. They are frequently planted in the meanest neighborhoods, and occasionally a genuine piece of old furni-ture or an old print may be picked up. But for the most part these shops are packed with the spurious products of the "antique" manufacturers. Within a stone's throw of Tottenham

Court road there are workshops employing hundreds of hands in the production of antique furniture-Sheraton, Hepplewhite, Chippendale, Empire, Queen Anne, Louis Quinze, Louis Seize, marqueterie or any other style that may be the fashion of the Chicago Evening Post.

Every now and then we are impressed with the verity of the saving. "Truth is moment. The workpeople, who are chiefly foreigners, include among them artists of no mean ability. In Manchester there is an "old English" oak furniture manufactory where Elizabethan or Jacobean chests, into many auction marts, and the unsuspecting collector must possess considerable kuowledge of the subject and no little intuition if he is to avoid the many snares laid for him. The auctioneer or dealer is careful not to guarantee the genuineness of what he offers. The "conditions of sale" always include some such wording as this: "Goods to be paid for, whether genuine and authentic or not, the venders not being responsible for the correct description

or authenticity of any lot, and making no waranty whatever. The private dealer safeguards himself by elling the purchaser that he himself bought the article as a genuine antique. In regard to paintings, there is known to exist a "ring" of experts, or connoisseurs, who find it well worth their while to certify, even on the flimsiest evidence, as to the authenticity of reputed works by great masters. But the best judges of pictures are often honestly deceived, and even the artists themselves have been known to repudiate their own works. A few years ago a canvas was sent by a West End picture dealer to a celebrated animal painter, with the usual fee for a certificate of authenticity. The artist disowned it, but when

the same painting was submitted to him

by another firm some time later he signed

It was not long ago that another West End firm of dealers bought what was believed to be a Constable for £4,000 and disposed of it again for something like £10,000 to a well-known peer, who not unnaturally was greatly surprised shortly afterwards at the pronouncement of a skilled connoisseur that the painting was not a Constable at all, but a very clever forgery. Legal proceedings followed, but the case was settled out of court. It appeared, however, that the alleged Constable had been painted in the north of England, and was originally sold at a well-known London auction mart

The great difficulty of detecting spurious "deceased masters" often lies in the fact that they have been painted by contemporary artists of no mean ability, or by a "gallery artist," who has been copying the same pictures for so many years that he has assimilated, as it were, the atmosphere of his surroundings and acquired, by long force of habit, the touch of the brush that enables him to reproduce the master with

America—where antique-hunting million-aires spring up almost daily, and where new picture galleries are constantly being formed on the "while-you-wait" principle-is the dumping ground of a great number of these forgeries.

SAILING ON FRIDAY.

Superstition Regarding It Still Strong Among Sailor Men.

New York Commercial. Among the ancient superstitions of Jack, the sailorman, there is one that sticks like the odor of pitch to a spliced hawser. Those who go down to the sea in ships are still reluctant to go down on Friday. Many superstitions have been attributed to saliors; some of them are myths, but this one about sailing on Friday is a reality, as the captains of all sea-going vessels entering

New York harbor know. Why they consider it ill luck to sail on Friday the men before the mast cannot explain, but they have stored in their forecastle tales many lurid narratives of the experiences of the ships that started on a voyage on Friday. If it is around the Horn The raising of alfalfa promises much for night to do some extra work next day. I it is two to one that the rocks of Magellan never knew till last night whether she was | will send her to the bottom; if it is to married or single-had a home of her own Liverpool or Lisbon the trades are sure to fail or there will be a man overboard be-

fore the Bahamas lie astern. The Latin seamen are peculiarly susceptible to this superstition, Spanish and Portuguese sailors especially. Their fears are shared by the French and Italians. Germans, English and Norwegians are inclined that way a little, but Uncle Sam's jolly tars have very little fear of God and none of the devil. That is why they are the best sailors and fighting men in the

world.

back in South street, "and we don't give a continental d- whether its is Friday or Monday. When the Latins discover their captain preparing to weigh anchor in the stream on Friday they lag back in their work in the

"Give us a blow," said an American shell-

rigging or in getting provisions on board and usually manage to delay sailing until the last day of the week. The large ocean steamship companies make no distinction on account of Friday, and the crews of the transatlantic liners take little interest in it.

The Leader of Leaders. Detroit Free Press.

There may be very little honor or profit in being the leader of the Democratic party in Ohio; but to such as there happens to be, Mr. Johnson's title cannot be disputed. Thane of Glamis he unquestionably is, but of Cawdor and the kingship, it is not worth while to speak at present, whatever the witches may be saying.



HARD LUCK. The Cannibal Chief-Where's the rest of treated as vagrants." that stranded theatrical company we cap-His Wife-They got away while you were

The agree Bulletin

AABY WAY OF AA Suggestion

Lace pendants are a new trimming. A few girl graduates are selecting white cotton etamine for commencement gowns.

The best place for furs now is a moth-proof storage room. Moths have been flying for several days and your furs will suffer "if you don't watch

Scalloped Persian bands are more favored right now than the plain bands of color which we are prone to consider as the only real Persian Embroidered silk gloves are rather

too dainty for general wear, but she

who "goes away" without a pair sac-

rifices one point of vantage as a prop-erly-gowned summer girl. Here's a pretty idea, and new: Line your twine cloth or etamine frock with Persian foulard. The shimmering of the silk and the elusive and changing color lend a surprising nov-elty to an otherwise ordinary gown.

Coats of Shantung Pongee are given much elegance by substituting ac-cordion plaited chiffon for the ordinary silk lining. Cream white is the accepted color and it certainly is charmingly dainty as a harmonizing tint for the natural brown of the pon-

There's a new wrap which suggests more and more of Oriental influence; in fact, it is little more than a Japanese geisha designed for carriage and evening wear, especially at the sea-side. This new garment is a short, voluminous jacket of white or delicately-tinted liberty satin embroidered in natural color flowers. You cannot buy them ready made, which perhaps is fortunate for the fad.

#### Duck and Denim

duck, pique and denim were never more popular than now, and assortments never so large and varied. Little prices pay for remarkably good qualities.

Plain color Duck and printed ducks, with dots, stripes and figures on white, blue and black grounds, come 

Printed figures may be had in white, navy, black, red and cadet blue. with dots, stripes and small conventional figures, at ......140 Dress denims are 29 inches wide and come in mixtures of mode, brown, tan, green, oxford gray, royal and navy blues, a yard...... 121/20

A pretty material is 30-inch Panama Suiting, in plain red, pink, reseda, navy, sky and cadet blues, entirely new, a yard...... 150

## Summer WOOLS

DRESS MATERIALS designed to drape over silk drop skirts are especially well represented in our present showing. Among them:

40-inch Silk and Wool Crepe de Chine. in tan, gray, beige and brown, a yard ..... \$1.00 42-inch All-wool Batiste, in soft spring

colorings, priced ............ 650 All-wool Etamines, 46 inches wide, in a number of different shades, at ..... 900

London Twine Suiting, in both light and dark colors, 43 inches wide, and priced ..... \$1.00 Yard-wide, All-wool Batiste

LINEN ROBES

Mostly of butchers' linen, in either white or colors, with heavily embroidered designs, such as trailing vines, flowers and the like. This needlework is mostly done by the peasantry of South France, and naturally we cannot hope to duplicate present stock. Prices-

\$14.50 to \$45.00

ALL THE GOOD THINGS don't come to the Ayres store exclusively, but most of them arrive here first. Hummel hats for ins'a ice-the

smartest tailored headwear in the country to-day, an accepted fad in the "effete East," and the despair of the average hatter. They've been on show and sale now for several

days and are fast winning their way into the hearts of women whose desire is for a street hat less severe than the average tailored affair. Hummel hats are not cheap, but they are worth all they cost, and their style is "absolutely correct."

## The Newest Walking Juit

"ENGLISH YOU KNOW," made with slashed shoulder cape, stole front and plaited hip skirt to the coat; dress skirt has side plaits, and is even length all around. May be had in three materials-Scotch homespun, in gray with black 

Four Others with Dress Length Skirts

Suits of Venetian broadcloth, in blue or brown, made with broad shoulder cape effect, collar, cape, front plait, cuffs and gore seams of skirt piped with plaid silk, a regular \$20.00 value.....\$14.75

Suits of Bourette etamine, in pearl gray, black, brown, blue, collar and blouse front edged with three milliner folds of matched taffeta, skirt plain flare....\$19.75 Suits of etamine, in black, blue or brown, made with double cape collar; cuffs, belt

and collar finished with black and white soutache braid, skirt plain flare .... \$17.50 Suit of etamine, in blue or black, made with plaited cape and stole front, trimmed with narrow bands of matched taffeta, stitched in white, skirt finished with three taffeta bands ......\$25.00

### Tub suits and separate skirts of The Finer Lace Curtains

OUR EAST WINDOW has been given over during the week just past to a practical demonstration of the superiority of Ayres values among hand-made curtain laces. Several bargain lots have come our way during the present month, and the window show and this list is the result.

\$8.00 a pair for real hand-made Battenburg laces, regularly sold at \$11.00.

\$9.50 a pair for others, well worth \$13.50.

\$17.75 a pair for Battenburgs, regularly \$27.50. \$14.75 a pair for such as regularly bring \$22.50.

Among the Brussels curtains, all exceptionally fine qualities, are \$10.00 laces at \$6.75, \$12.50 ones for \$8.75, and \$20 and \$27.50 values at \$15.00 and \$21.50. Real Arabian curtains are well represented in several qualities; \$5.00 a pair for \$6.75 kind; \$7.50 for such as were \$9.50; others at \$17.50, \$23.50 and \$45.00, which at a close valuation are worth from \$22.50 to \$55.00.

# The Best Rugs to Buy

MUCH DEPENDS UPON ONE'S MEANS, but for the home with a moderate income, where economy as well as beauty must be given consideration, few floor coverings give the same satisfaction as large size Wiltons and the better qualities of Brussels. Ayres assortments are greatest, Ayres prices as low as the lowest,

Axminster Rugs, 24 by 54 feet .... \$3.00

# Yesso Rugs Corsets for Girls

NEARLY A MONTH since we've had a sufficient quantity of these pretty Japanese rugs to mention. The following sizes are now in stock, all in bright Oriental colors:

Size 6 by 9 feet, \$7.25. Size 71 by 101 feet, \$10.50. Size 9 by 12 feet, \$14.75. Ideal for halls, libraries and porches.

THE ATLANTA AT \$1

WARNER'S RUST PROOF ATLANTA fills the bill. It is a dainty corset of batiste-a new French summer fabric, light but firm and strong-giving added charm to the slender girlish form, with the stylish poise desired. Three colors are available, white, pink and blue; sizes 18 to 26 inches; \$1 a pair.

# L. J. HIRES (C. C. C. Indiana's Greatest Distributers of Dry Goods.

VAGRANTS SOLD INTO SERVICE.

Old Kentucky Law Which Is Still in Operation.

New York Times. There is a law under which men and women are sold into temporary bondage in Kentucky. It is known as the vagrant act, and was passed by the Legislature as long ago as 1795. Only a few weeks ago Sheriff W. L. Lawson, of Lancaster, acted as auctionsales take place every month or so in all

the counties, and a big crowd attends each time. The aged vagrant act, which has been amended slightly once or twice in the last half a century, shows that certain popular games of to-day were popular in colonial times, and mention is made especially of "Pharoah" banks, all "Pharoah" dealers or managers being described as salable

It is after an indictment by the grand jury that the prisoner is auctioned. The prosecution is criminal in nature, and under the law the accused is entitled to "the benefit of reasonable doubt." If found guilty he must go into servitude, but the period of slavery is temporary; if he is an adult it lasts only twelve months, and if he is a child he must serve until his twenty-first birthday. Very often the purchaser is some one whom the vagrant has asked to buy him, and in such cases the lot of the latter is not hard, for he lives at ease upon the resources of the pruchaser, who is often his The law of 1795 was called "an act to pre-

vent the increase of vagrants and other idle

and disorderly persons within this State." In Section 1 it is enacted: "That every able-bodied person who is ing wherewithal to maintain himself by some visible property, and who doth not betake himself to labor or some honest calling to procure a livelihood; and all persons who may be found begging, and who quit their habitation and leave their wives subsistence whereby they suffer or become chargable to the county; and all and every keeper and keepers, exhibitor or exhibbank, or any other table or bank of the same kind under any denomination what-ever; and all other idle and dissolute per-

whole law takes up Chapter 132 of the Ken-tucky statutes. For many years it con-

tained a provision that the vagrant must | but still I looked at the printed slip accom be whipped publicly if nobody appeared to panying the manuscript, wondering a little buy him, but this section was repealed. if in making up the form of declination The number of lashes by the public whipper was limited to twenty-five. Out of the proceeds of a vagrant's sale

are paid the fees and expenses of the prosecution, and whatever money is left has to be applied to the payment of debts of the once free citizen. Should there be a second remainder, it is given to the wife and children, if the criminal has any; but if he be wifeless and childless the money is kept for him until the end of his term of service. If a married vagrant, after haveer and sold several of the vagrants. The \$100 for a bond, with good surety, he is allowed to go home, where he gives a promise to reform and adhere to hard work. Should he fall later to keep this promise his bond is forfeited. Several of the lower courts have declared the statute of 1795 to be illegal, but the

> vagrants are not a class of people with money enough for extensive litigation. WHY HE WENT INTO BUSINESS.

pass on the matter. The cases involving

high courts, for the obvious reason that

Unusual Experience of a Man Who Set Out to Be a Literary Person. New York Sun. "I had hopes once myself of making fame

and fortune by my pen," said a substantial middle-aged citizen who is now drawing

\$40,000 or \$50,000 a year out of a prosperous

business, "but somehow I couldn't make em come my way. "I wrote and wrote and wrote things, and sent my pieces around in all directions, but it was no use. They all came back. Everybody was overcrowded or what sent wasn't just what they wanted or something or other every time. And so my prospects in the literary line looked pretty dim, and I was beginning to think I'd have found loitering or rambling about not hav- to take up some other pursuit when out came a new periodical that was to make a specialty of just the sort of stuff that I felt I could turn out. Now, I said to myself now, old sport, your time has come at last. All this previous experience that you've where you get your reward.

been having, sad as it may have seemed, and children without suitable means of you can now utterly forget, for here is "And I prepared a piece that I thought must hit these new folks, and hit 'em hard, itors of either of the gambling tables called and sent it in. The time had come when A. B. C. or E. O. tables or of a Pharoah my light was to shine out on a hill. my light was to shine out on a hill. "But the very next day, so prompt was its return, I got from the new concern a thick envelope back. I knew well enough without opening it what it was. It was sons rambling about without any visible means of subsistence, shall be deemed and | my manuscript back, and so it proved to | treated as vagrants."

be. Wasn't that a crusher? It was, indeed. Here, where my hopes had really
with the details of the punishment, and the
been highest, they had been the quickest

The selfish brute.

they had hit on anything new, and looking so I got at a glance the shock of a happy surprise. My manuscript had not been rejected, but the new periodical had suspended publication and my manuscript was re-turned, as I was politely informed, without having been read at all. "So it might have been accepted after all, and truly that was great relief to me. Hon-

est Injun, I had thought when I saw the new print that I could hit it, sure, and when that manuscript came back to me ing been convicted, can scrape together | from it, I don't believe you know just how I felt nor do I believe you could imagine what a great relief and comfort it was to me to find what that printed slip really "Still, after that experience, I thought that maybe I'd better try something else

the statute of 1795 to be illegal, but the for a while, anyway. And I did, and grad-highest courts have not had a chance to ually drifted into the business I am now in. And I suppose, really, that I have vagrants have never been appealed to the made more money, perhaps a good deal more, in the business than I ever could have made in the literary line, but it is always very pleasant to me, nevertheless, to think that if the periodical I could have written for had not stopped publication I might have succeeded in that line, too."

One of Irving's Stories.

Philadelphia Ledger. Sir Henry Irving is telling in London with much gusto of an incident that he says occurred during his last visit here. It is one of his yarns to show the quick wit of the American street arab. "I was strolling down Broadway one afternoon with my long locks floating over the collar of my top coat, when a newsboy rushed up to me and, gesticulating violently, shouted at me in tragic voice: "'Back! back, Sir Henry! Fly for your

I looked nervously around, 'What's the matter, my lad?' " 'Orrible danger, sir! There's a barber in that hotel opposite!"

Confessions of Geraldine. Chicago Tribune.

How much longer can I endure it? This morning my husband rose before daybreak. He was too lazy to light a lamp, and breakfasted in the dark. The result was he ate the prepared kindling wood instead of the predigested breakfast food. When the servants got up there was nothing to build the fire with. Of course, they were angry and left. I do not blame I spoke of the matter to my husband to-

I am quite calm as I write. I marvel at

detail of it didn't interest me much, my own patience.